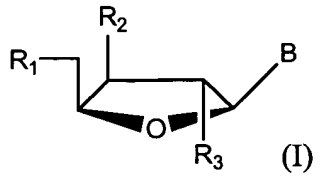
Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims shall replace all prior versions, or listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of 2'- or 3'-deoxy- and 2',3'-dideoxy-β-L-pentofuranonucleoside compounds of formula I:



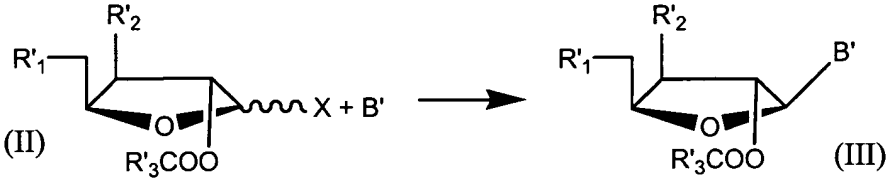
(I)

in which

- B represents purine or pyrimidine base;
- R_1 represents OH;
- R_2 and R_3 represent, independently of each other, H or OH; and
- at least one of R_2 and R_3 represents H;

characterized in that the following steps are carried out:

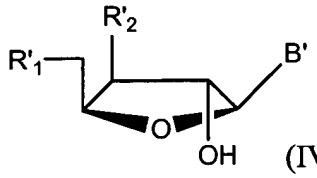
1) a compound of formula (II) is condensed with the base B in order to obtain the compound of formula (III) according to the scheme



in which formulae (II) and (III):

- R'_1 and R'_2 have the meanings given for R_1 and R_2 except that when R_1 and R_2 represent OH, the OH group is protected by a protecting group ~~such as~~ selected from the group consisting of an acyl, a benzoyl, a benzyl or a silyl group,
- R'_3 represents a C_1 to C_5 alkyl group or a phenyl radical, ~~which are optionally substituted,~~
- X is a leaving group such as Cl, Br, I or a C_1 to C_5 acyloxy or alkoxy group,
- B' is a purine or pyrimidine base B which is optionally appropriately protected,

2) the R'_3COO group at the 2' position is removed by deacetylation so as to obtain an OH group and a compound of formula



(IV)

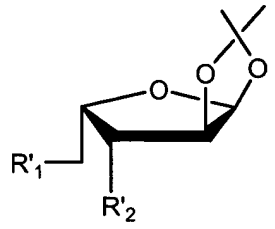
3) optionally, the OH group at the 2' position is removed by a deoxygenation reaction; and

4) where appropriate, the R'_1 and R'_2 groups and the B' base are deprotected so as to obtain the compounds of formula (I).

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the compounds (II) and (III), R'_3 represents a C_1 to C_5 alkyl group.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claims 1 or 2, further comprising preparing ~~characterized in that~~ the compound (II), in which X and R'_3COO represent an O-acetyl group, ~~is prepared~~ by acetolysis of a 1,2-isopropylid-ene-L-xylofuranose compound of formula (V)

(V)



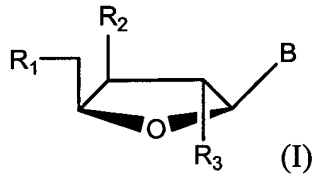
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that R'_2 and R'_3COO are different~~, in particular R'_2 is an O-benzoyl group and R'_3 is an alkyl group~~.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the compounds of formula (I) are prepared in which R_2 and R_3 represent H or OH.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the B represents one of the adenine, guanine, hypoxanthine, uracil, thymine or cytosine bases, wherein these bases may be substituted by a halogen at the 5 position for cytosine and uracil.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) in which B is cytosine, further comprising a step wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a compound in which B is uracil is converted to a compound of Formula I in which B is cytosine by converting uracil to cytosine.

8. (Currently Amended) A stereoisomeric β-L-pentofuranonucleoside compound[[s]] corresponding to the following formula



(I)

in which

- B ~~has the meaning given in one of Claims 1 and 6~~ represents one of the uracil, thymine or cytosine bases, wherein these bases may be substituted by a halogen at the 5 position for cytosine and uracil, R_1 represents OH and,
  - either R_2 represents OH and R_3 represents H,
  - or R_2 represents H and R_3 represents OH.

9. (Currently Amended) The compound according to Claim ~~7~~8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein B represents uracil, ~~5-fluorouracil, hypoxanthine,~~ cytosine or 5-fluorocytosine~~, guanine or adenine~~.

10 - 16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the compounds (II) and (III), R'_3 represents CH_3.